CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-10 as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A screw element with a tool engagement means ~~(5, 6)~~ and a spring element ~~(8)~~ which is formed on the screw element in one piece in coaxial relationship with the screw axis ~~(7)~~ and which with its free edge defines a workpiece contact plane which is perpendicular to the screw axis and which is at an axial spacing from the screw element ~~(1)~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the spring element ~~(8)~~ is mounted at the periphery of the screw element, that is to say a screw head ~~(4)~~ or a screw nut, it projects radially beyond the periphery and it forms a workpiece contact means ~~(9)~~ which is disposed outside the periphery and which is in concentric relationship with the screw axis ~~(7)~~.

2. (Currently amended) A screw element as set forth in claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~, wherein the spring element ~~(8)~~ is a ring which is concentric with respect to the screw axis ~~(7)~~ and which has a workpiece contact means ~~(9)~~ which is annular throughout.

3. (Currently amended) A screw element as set forth in claim 2 ~~characterised in that~~, wherein the ring forming the spring element ~~(8)~~ has a plurality of openings ~~(20)~~ distributed uniformly over its periphery.

4. (Currently amended) A screw element as set forth in claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~, wherein the spring element ~~(8)~~ comprises a plurality of radial, claw-like projections ~~(11)~~ which each have at least a respective portion of the workpiece contact means ~~(9)~~.

5. (Currently amended) A screw element as set forth in claim 4 ~~characterised in that~~, wherein three projections ~~(11)~~ are arranged distributed uniformly at the periphery of the screw element ~~(1)~~.

6. (Currently amended) A screw element as set forth in ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 5, wherein the spring element ~~(8)~~ has a relatively flat spring characteristic.

7. (Currently amended) A screw element as set forth in claim 6 ~~characterised in that~~, wherein the spring element ~~(8)~~ is of lower hardness than the screw element ~~(1)~~.

8. (Currently amended) A screw element as set forth in ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 7, wherein the spring element ~~(8)~~ has projections ~~(13, 14, 14a)~~ in the region of the workpiece contact means ~~(9)~~.

9. (Currently amended) A screw ~~(1)~~ having a head ~~(4)~~ in the form of the screw element as set forth in ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 8, wherein it is of a thread-forming and optionally self-boring nature.

10. (Currently amended) A screw connection between two workpieces of which at least one is a metal plate or a plastic element, with a screw element as set forth in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ claim 9, wherein only the spring element ~~(8)~~ and it bears with a predetermined prestressing force against the adjoining workpiece.